

OTHER NOTICES

Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology. Volume XXV. *Biological Clocks*. Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1961. The Biological Laboratory. Pp. xiii + 524. Price \$12.

THIS LATEST HANDSOME volume in the well-known Cold Spring Harbor series is as finely produced as its predecessors.

Many of the previous volumes, particularly those dealing with genetics and with population studies, have been reviewed at some length in these pages. *Biological Clocks*, though not of sufficient eugenic importance for a full notice here, will be valuable to the experts whose fields it covers and fascinating to others interested in the study of the daily rhythms of plants and animals.

Gibbens, T. C. N. *Trends in Juvenile Delinquency*. Public Health Papers No. 5. Geneva, 1961. World Health Organization. (London, H.M.S.O.) Pp. 56. Price 3s. 6d.

TWO MAIN ASPECTS of this subject are examined (1) delinquent behaviour which does not differ fundamentally from the more traditional forms but which arises from new opportunities and (2) crimes which seem to reveal a more basic change in behaviour and the participation of sections of the community which previously have avoided crime.

A general survey of present trends is followed by headings such as social changes, changes in family life, changes in the individual delinquent. This in turn is followed by the examination of special property offences, sexual offences, wayward girls, violent offences, alcoholism and drug addiction and hooliganism.

The booklet is concluded by a description of present trends in prevention and treatment, both institutional and at liberty.

C. W. USHER

Haskell, Gordon. *Practical Heredity with Drosophila*. Edinburgh and London, 1961. Oliver and Boyd. Pp. xii + 124. Price 10s. 6d.

THIS BOOK GIVES information required for the illustration of the principles of gene recombination using breeding experiments with *Drosophila* and for the statistical analysis of the results. However, this is not what is needed to-day. It is thirty-six years since the publication of Morgan's standard account of inheritance in *Drosophila*. Practical genetics classes to-day should be handling cultures of microorganisms, such as T2 and *Neurospora*, and should be given the fundamental biochemical background for understanding the *action* of the chromosomes. Tomorrow's scientists would be more interested to examine their own chromosomes or see actual heterozygous lampbrush chromosomes of newts. Students tend to be inspired most by material related to recent advances. This book should not be allowed to mislead well-meaning teachers into initiating an antiquated course. A very different kind of text is required, urgently.

ADRIAN HORRIDGE

Wood, R. K. S. (Editor.) *Biological Problems arising from the Control of Pests and Diseases*. Symposia of the Institute of Biology No. 9. London, 1960. Pp. viii + 116. Price 25s.

THE RANGE OF this symposium is extremely wide for it covers the effects, and side-effects, of subjects such as drug resistant bacteria, possible consequences of the control of mental diseases, the effects on beneficial insects arising from the use of insecticides, the effects on man arising from the widespread use of chemicals on plants, the results of controlling certain diseases in man and animals—economic and social, etc. Moreover, the terms of reference call for suggestions for dealing with these possible results.

Finally, Dr. G. C. L. Bertram deals with the more philosophical aspect of these subjects in a profound—and delightful—paper entitled "Ethi-

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cal Selection—the Supplanter of Natural Selection in Mankind”. Mere large numbers are liable to obscure the qualitative needs of a population, and yet man’s compassion imposes restrictions on what measures can be deemed acceptable forms of control. Questions such as the purpose of all life, whether man has a goal to be reached or even a valid target at

which to aim are given a prominence instead of the all too frequent neglect.

Taken altogether the symposium is thought-provoking and refreshing and should be read by all who enjoy the blessed fruits of clear thinking by trained minds.

C. W. USHER

